



*MVAC at the University
of Wisconsin-La Crosse*

*Archaeology News
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Archaeology News

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2011 NEH Institute for Teachers

Kathy Stevenson, Projects Director

Last July, 24 teachers from all over the country came to MVAC and UW-La Crosse for a unique learning experience: a three-week Summer Institute for Teachers that explored how human cultures have adapted to the region's complex and ever-changing environments.

The teachers focused on how Native American and Euro-American peoples have adapted to the rugged landscape, challenging climate, and rich resources of the Upper Mississippi River Valley over the past 13,000 years, and how those adaptations keep changing even today. The Institute linked archaeology to a variety of topics and teaching areas, so participants could use the experience to take new teaching approaches back to their classrooms.

The Institute incorporated classroom discussions, demonstrations and presentations, lab studies, cleaning and cataloguing of artifacts, making an arrowhead and an arrow, and using a spear thrower. Field trips included a site excavation, visits to local Amish farms and organic growers, Effigy Mounds National Monument, a cave with Native American rock art, and other locations.

The Summer Institute - the third one MVAC and UW-La Crosse have been privileged to offer - was supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and was one of only 19 Summer Institutes for K-12 teachers funded by NEH for 2011.



Maryland teacher Sean McCabe learns the fine art of flintknapping under Robert Keiper's watchful eye.



Steve Malcolm from Louisiana readies an atlatl and spear for a mighty throw.

The lead instructor was UW-L Professor Emeritus Jim Theler, who drew on his four decades of experience to offer lively classroom discussions, demonstrations, field trips, and readings. The Co-Directors were MVAC Projects Director Kathy Stevenson and Director of Public Education Bonnie Jancik. Longtime MVAC friends Loren Cade and Robert Keiper provided their expertise as well.

From The Director: Joseph A. Tiffany



Joseph A. Tiffany

Hello everyone. Lots of news to report. After 23 years at MVAC, Connie Arzigian is changing hats. She is now a full-time instructor in the Archaeology Studies Program at UW-La Crosse. The semester has already started, and she is busy with a gaggle of eager students. Connie still has an office at MVAC because one of her teaching responsibilities is to work with our undergraduate students on their projects and senior research papers that utilize MVAC collections. Connie will continue to direct our public field survey and field school as well. She is a great teacher, and very excited by the challenges of full time teaching. MVAC Curator, Mike Bednarchuk, has completed his graduate program of study at Leicester University and has been awarded a M.A. in Museum Studies. Our congratulations to Connie and Mike!

This summer MVAC is again hosting a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for Teachers that will include more work at the Cade Archaeological District, a property on the National Register of Historic Places. The program will be co-directed by Bonnie Jancik and Jonathan Baker of the Archaeological Studies Program. MVAC's Projects Director Kathy Stevenson and UW-L Professor Emeritus Jim Theler will also help lead the program.

This is MVAC's 30th anniversary year. We have several events planned, and hopefully, more to follow. Upcoming on February 16, Robert Birmingham will talk on "Spirits of Earth: The Effigy Mound Landscape of Madison and the Four Lakes." Prior to the lecture, we will kick off our 30th Anniversary with our 2011 Awards Ceremony. On April 5, Jonathan Baker will present "Ancient Human Use of Aquatic Environments along the Northern Coast of the Gulf of Mexico." Also in April I will give the banquet address at the 124th meeting of the Iowa Academy of Science on the "Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center: Archaeology in Action." Later this year, Robert Palmer, United States Department of the Interior will talk on "Time Bandits and Those Who Pursue Them: A Story of Cultural Resource Theft (and Protection) in America."

We are cranking up for a busy field season with work in Onalaska and central Wisconsin. MVAC staff is also busy completing reports on several large projects from prior years.

Be sure and mark your calendars for the Artifact Show on Saturday, March 3, the Field Survey in May, and the Public Field School August 6-10. Membership renewals are coming in, and we thank you for your support!

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MVAC Educational Programs are supported by:
The United Fund for the Arts and Humanities
The National Endowment for the Humanities

Education News

Matching Funds Grant: Teachers interested in using MVAC's Archaeology Education Program resources in their classrooms can get financial help with our Matching Funds Grant. The grant matches a teacher or school's cost dollar for dollar. Thanks to the UW-L Foundation, the UW-L College of Liberal Studies, and the School District of La Crosse for donating toward this program. To view MVAC's Teacher Resource Brochure, check out the Educators section of MVAC's website at www.uwlax.edu/mvac.

Youth Scholarships: Scholarships for MVAC's Youth Summer Programs are available thanks to a grant received from the UW-L College of Liberal Studies. Scholarships can be obtained for any of our programs for grades 1-12, including the 3 or 5 day Public Field Experience.

For information on the Matching Funds Grant or Youth Scholarships, contact Jean Dowiasch at (608) 785-8454 or jdowiasch@uwlax.edu.

Celebrating 30 Years!

MVAC is thankful for all the past support we have received to grow this organization from a 2-person crew in 1982 (founder Jim Gallagher and Kathy Stevenson) to an organization with 9 staff members and additional adjunct researchers. Throughout our 30 years, MVAC has consistently tried to promote the preservation of sites in the region, research the past cultures of the upper Mississippi Valley, and share what we learn with area students and the general public.

The More Things Change ...



Archaeology News will be celebrating MVAC's 30th Anniversary all year long. If you have any special memories of digging with MVAC, attending Silver Mound Day or an open site tour, please send them to me as we'd love to share them with our readers. Exciting and/or incriminating photos from the past are always welcome! Please send your photos or stories to jdowiasch@uwlax.edu. While we remember the past, we continue to look toward MVAC's future. The staff members of MVAC look forward to working with you in the years ahead.



the More They Stay the Same!!

Above left: Kathy Stevenson (right) getting told to "Take this job and shovel it" at the Valley View site in 1979. Above right: Kathy (on right, with Vicki Twinde-Javner at the Krause Site in 2000) came back to in 2010 as MVAC's Projects Director.

MVAC MEMBERSHIP FORM

Consider becoming a member of MVAC

MVAC's innovative Public Education Program brings the excitement of archaeology to children and adults throughout the area. Become a member of MVAC and receive our newsletters, which report on programs, current research, upcoming events, and volunteer opportunities. Also, as a member, you will receive reminders of special "members only" events. Please remember that your contribution is tax-deductible.

Yes! I want to support the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center Programs!
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Membership Categories

Patron: \$1000 and above
Benefactor: \$500 - 999
Supporting: \$100 - 499
Contributing: \$50 - 99
Active: \$35 - 49
Students: \$10

Please make checks payable to UW-L Foundation, Inc. for MVAC and send to MVAC, 1725 State St., La Crosse, WI 54601. Gifts to the UW-L Foundation for MVAC qualify as charitable tax deductions to the full extent of the law as applied to the individual circumstances of each donor. You can increase your gift's value if your employer has a matching gift plan. Check with your human resources office.



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Upcoming Events

Contact MVAC at (608) 785-8454 for more information or visit our web site: ***www.uwlax.edu/mvac***

MVAC 2011 Awards and 30th Anniversary Kick-Off “Spirits of Earth: The Effigy Mound Landscape of Madison and the Four Lakes”

Robert Birmingham discusses his new book that examines the ancient effigy mounds by looking at an area of Wisconsin where they are best described and preserved. Archaeologist and author Robert Birmingham teaches at the UW-Waukesha and writes from his home in Madison, WI.

Date: Thursday, February 16, 2012

Time: Social 6:00 pm, Awards 6:30 pm,
Lecture 7:00 pm

Location: UW-L, Cartwright Center, Port O’Call

Speaker: Robert Birmingham

Artifact Show

Come to Valley View Mall and see artifacts representing the area’s long history. Local collectors will display their personal collections of artifacts. See artifacts recovered from local excavations. Archaeologists will be on hand to identify your artifacts. E-mail jdowiasch@uwlax.edu or call at 608-785-8454 if you would like to display your artifacts.

Date: Saturday, March 3, 2012

Time: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Location: Valley View Mall, La Crosse, WI

Olmsted County’s First Residents

Connie Arzigian will offer an overview of past cultures of the Rochester area, from big-game hunters at the end of the Ice Age to the first farmers at 1000 A.D.

Date: Sunday, March 25, 2012

Time: 2 p.m.

Location: Rochester Public Library

Speaker: Dr. Constance Arzigian, UW-L Archaeological Studies Program